



The Seven Churches of Revelation

A holy KINGDOM of royal Priests

There are many studies published on the meaning of the seven churches of Revelation. This is yet another. Since, Christianity does not have the full understanding of the scriptures, then, every study is worth the reading and testing, as the noble Bereans would do. A humble spirit will not assume righteousness, but will question and test traditional thought and lean on Jesus, our only Teacher for learning, understanding and wisdom. This is a study prayerfully researched and shared, ready for testing.

This study takes the view of the big picture. It identifies the functions within a holy kingdom of royal priests and links each function with each church along with Jesus' assessment, recommendations and rewards.

Christ divided the Christian churches into seven specific groups different from each other because each one is responsible for a different function.

The word "church" in the Bible comes from the Greek word "ecclesia", which means a "called out company" or "assembly"; it is used for people. It was used in Acts 19:30-41 to reference a "mob", in Acts 7:38 for the descendants of Israel, and the body of Christ in Matthew 16:18 and Ephesians 5:23-27, which is comprised of individuals as well as everyone who accepts Christ as their Savior.

The number seven in Biblical studies means completion. From that view, seven groups of people responsible for seven core functions make a holy kingdom of royal priests complete.

Ancient Israel was inherited by God and called to become a holy kingdom of royal priests (Exodus 19:6, I Peter 2:9). Christ's sacrifice has now confirmed that all nations on earth will become a united holy kingdom of royal priests (Revelation 5:10).

Christians will come from every nation, tribe, language and people. Christ has opened the door to salvation to everyone on earth. Now, it is time for Christians to overcome and fulfill their duties. If they do not, they will cease to exist.

Mankind is comprised of nations and within those nations are religious bodies, organizations and structures. The seven bodies of people of Revelation reflect seven core functions within a kingdom—God’s holy kingdom of royal priests.

1. Ephesus

Since Jesus is walking through all seven churches with the seven angels over those churches when he is talking specifically to the church of Ephesus, it appears he is addressing a shared global work within Christianity.

These people don’t grow tired against evil men and testing false apostles. They work hard and persevere, but over time their drive and passion within their global work fades. They may be missionaries or those working directly in the spreading of the gospel to all nations.

It was Gentiles who took the gospel worldwide:

- It began with the birth of the church on Pentecost. One hundred and twenty Jews received the Holy Spirit.
- It spread to the conversion of pagan Gentiles to Christianity.
- The crusades provided protection for pilgrimages to Jerusalem contributing to the preservation of the affiliation with the holy land and the expansion of Christianity.
- The Gentiles collected and cherished the books of the Old Testament. All of the letters sent to the churches were compiled into a collection that became the Bible.
- Printing and distribution became the leading mechanism of spreading the gospel in medieval times.

“Gutenberg chose the Bible as the first product of his marvelous invention of movable type in 1455. Martin Luther was the first to translate the Bible into the vernacular, in his case, German.

For two centuries it was punishable by death to print the Bible in any language other than Latin, although the Old Testament existed in Hebrew and Greek. But under King James, a major effort created the translation known to most of the world, and a virtual war broke out over who would print it.”

<https://museumofprinting.org/news-and-events/gutenberg-and-the-history-of-the-printed-bible/>

The Gideons played a significant role in the distribution of Bibles. “The Gideons organization was begun in 1899 by two traveling salesmen with a heart for evangelism. They later adopted the goal of putting a Bible in every hotel room in the United States starting in 1908. From those beginnings grew an organization of over 300,000 men and women in 195 countries giving out Bibles or New Testaments in over ninety languages. In their first 105 years, the Gideons have given out over 1.8 billion copies of God’s Word.” <https://www.gotquestions.org/Gideons-International.html>

- From the birth of the church with God’s Holy Spirit, missionaries were sent out further and further reaching far-away places worldwide.
- The Internet

Into the 21st century, the internet is an extensive platform for spreading the gospel through webpages, video platforms, blogging, podcasts, social networking, video calls and video-conferencing.

The ordinary person can reach people all around the world.

Jacob's trouble is all about returning the nations of Israel and of the world back to God and correcting their internal organizations so they function according to God's way. This group during the Great Tribulation will re-ignite their love and passion for God's word and the burning drive they had at the beginning will forge a religious revival never seen on earth previously. **The gospel will go out again as Joel foresaw** hundreds of years ago and as the Apostle Peter witnessed at the birth of the church. These are ordinary people, men and women, who will prophesy.

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17).

Prophesying is more than understanding future events, but it is a gift into the mysteries of God. "If I have the **gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...**" (1 Corinthians 13:2a) that gift, is the gift the Apostle Paul encouraged Christians to ask for because **"everyone who prophesies speaks to men and women for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."** In contrast with those who speak in tongues; they edify only themselves unless what they are saying can be translated. **"He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified"** (1 Corinthians 14:3-5).

God desires that everyone be saved. During God's day of wrath, God's people will go out to the nations, again. "Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: 'Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land... but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, **'You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings'**" (Revelation 10:8, 10b-11).

These people will be sharing all of God's mysteries not just the understanding of future events. Knowledge of God will explode across the planet from the work of this group of people. During a time of great distress, a light will ignite and burn into a raging fire that will expose the evil works of wicked people.

After their great work is complete, Jesus will reward them with **the RIGHT** to enter at any time into God's paradise (that precious place where God and Christ reside) and they will eat from the tree of life (Jesus, the Word). They will learn of things that are wonderful, amazing yet true and share it globally with mankind in the Millennium and throughout eternity. They may lead the perpetual spreading of God's news, projects and wonders to come because they will have been given **that RIGHT**.

2. Smyrna

Jesus introduces himself to these people as “the First and the Last, who died and came to life again” (Revelation 3:8). This introduction reveals not only the fate of these people but **the great reward as a Son of God**. Jesus Christ is the first Son of God. He, through the power of His Father, created all life in heaven and on earth (Colossians 1:16-17, I Corinthians 8:6). He also is the Last, Adam whose sacrifice saved all of mankind. He died and came to life again. Christians who repent and accept Christ sacrifice will also, like Christ, be reborn.

This group of people will be a sacrifice through persecution and martyrdom. Like their brothers and sisters in times past, their suffering will awaken the spiritually dead and bring many people into repentance. Their sacrifice is a demonstration of their love for God, Jesus Christ and their brothers and sisters both in the faith and outside.

In response, Jesus has said, “**Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you**. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing. But **I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you**” (John 15:13-15).

When the fifth seal was opened, these people were the first to feel the pain of persecution. “When he opened **the fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants on the earth and avenge our blood?’ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to **wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow brothers and sisters who were to be killed as they had been was completed**” (Revelation 6:10-11).

“Then **you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me**. At that time **many will fall away and will betray and hate one another**” (Matthew 24:9).

Before Satan is thrown down to earth, Babylon will be busy doing her dirty deeds. “I saw that **the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony of Jesus**” (Revelation 17:6).

When Satan is overthrown in heaven and thrust down to earth, he will setup his headquarters with his coalition and force the nations on earth to submit and worship him. This is the beginning of Jacob’s trouble and his descendants into the 21st century will be the victim of Satan’s display of power. The nations of the world will watch and without a battle, they will surrender. They will say, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against it?” (Revelation 13:4b)

Satan will turn all his energy against those who keep God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. The people of Smyrna will endure merciless slandering by the “Jews who are not Jews but are of the synagogue of Satan”. They will be imprisoned, brutally mistreated and some will experience a painful death. Living in poverty, they will have no relief except for their rich knowledge of God’s word and His ways that binds their faith into an unbreakable allegiance with God Almighty. When some of them stumble, it will only

strengthen and rebuild them into a stronger people. They will not break under extreme distress.

“Those who are wise will instruct many though **for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered**. When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. **Some of the wise will stumble**, so that they may be **refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end**, for it will still come at the appointed time” (Daniel 11:33-35).

Jesus will resurrect them and God will anoint each of them as a ruling, royal Son of God. Jesus will reward them with the victor’s **CROWN** of life. Being part of the first resurrection is their guarantee. The specific mention of receiving a crown indicates a throne—a chair of their own—the reward of **sole rulership over their own jurisdiction**. They are spiritual warriors who will forever rule righteously and protect the great kingdom of God. They will be trusted by God to lead righteously, obeying without question and hesitation the leadership above them—Almighty God and Jesus Christ.

3. Pergamum

Christ comes to these people with a double-edged sword. This is concerning because this double-edged sword is intended to expose the thoughts of man deep within their soul. “**For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account**” (Hebrews 4:12-13).

The sharp double-edged sword is the imagery God uses to describe the power of His word, His truth to expose lies, deception and misinformation. The Bible often records the presence of the Son of God holding a sharp double-edged sword because he will enforce the word of God. “He held in His right hand seven stars, and **a sharp double-edged sword came from His mouth**. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest” (Revelation 1:16).

This group of people are located where Satan has his throne, which into the 21st century may be among those who preach his theology: science without God, medicine without God, technology without God, all knowledge without God. This centre of learning without God are all of the schools, universities, research centres, and learning facilities that have rejected God in their teachings.

There are Christians who spend their whole life studying God’s word. They research ancient writings, study languages, translations, and supporting writings from endless sources. They pass judgment on scriptural meaning and publish their work, but their publications have inaccuracies. That is why Christ appears with the double-edged sword. He stands before them to pierce through the layers into their inner soul to discern their deep thoughts and intentions.

These people tolerate the teaching of Balaam who taught Balak how to get the ancient Israelites to sin against God. Balak taught ancient Israel to compromise the word of God and

accept false teachings as if they have merit. Some of the people of this group may compromise, while others may not, still the compromise is allowed and Christianized to show a stamp of approval.

There have been many bishops and religious scholars in past history and into the 21st century who have published hundreds and hundreds of books with different and opposing views that has caused confusion and pushed people further and further from the truth, leaving people to wander without finding the pure word of God.

These people love digging deep to find information; that is their strength. They are relentless, but they don't always find the pure word, rather only portions of it because they don't have an intimate relationship with God. They are relying too much on their **own intellect**; they need to lean on Christ for clarity.

Being **humble** and **being a servant of God** is where they need to focus. Some of them hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans where offices are given superiority and they use this heightened power to enforce their views and conclusions, without question.

The teaching of the Nicolaitans opposes Jesus' description of the body of Christ which is comprised of many titles and different gifts, but work as equals doing God's work.

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink" (I Corinthians 12:12-13).

"God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should **be no division in the body**, but that its parts should have **equal concern for each other**" (I Corinthians 12:25).

Jesus warned these people to heed his words. If they do not change, he will come and fight against them with spoken words—God's pure word. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34).

Christ is coming to purge falsehood, misconceptions, misunderstandings and disinformation from everywhere on earth. Those who overcome will be forgiven (receive of a white stone) for contributing to deception and given a new name that will reflect their conquest.

Also, they will be rewarded with "hidden manna". God knows their passion for discovery and He will reward them with knowledge that is "hidden", deep things that cannot be discovered without God's direct guidance. They will venture into eternal wonders and the energy from discovery will draw them intimately close to Him. They marvel at God's intellect and complexity. They will wonder and never be satisfied for they will discover His never-ending greatness.

4. Thyatira

Christ appears to this group of people in his spiritual form, as a Son of God in the realm of heaven. "His eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze" (Revelation 2:18).

Upon Christ's return this appearance is again noted. **"His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is The Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses. And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with an iron scepter.** He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God, the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"** (Revelation 19:12-16).

Christ's appearance in Revelation is reflective of the role of national leadership as one coming to rule the nations.

The people of this group called Thyatira receive a warm introduction from Jesus; **they are doing more than what they had done previously.**

The national leaders specifically of the ten tribes of ancient Israel have struggled to do the right thing most of the time. However, a time came somewhere in their forgotten history when they repented like the prodigal son. They returned to a significant prophet and like Naaman, the Syrian general, they asked for healing of their systemic disease. Their repentance was accepted, they were healed and re-entered the covenant family.

Their history was scanty until they repented, then the light shown again and they were found changing their behavior, a grace-filled people learning to love, learning to obey God though still rough around the edges. A review of history shows a progression of doing more than they did in ancient times.

A brief overview from ancient times into the 21st century:

- **King Jehu** was the only good leader of the house of Israel in ancient times.
"Jehu got up and went into the house, where the young prophet poured the oil on his head and declared, This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anoint you king over the LORD's people Israel'" (II Kings 9:6).
Jehu ordered the death of Jezebel, the wicked Queen wife of wayward and weak King Ahab.
God said to King Jehu, "Because you have done all in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation" (II Kings 10:30).
- **The ten tribes of Israel refused to repent after their captivity and received a sentence seven times the original.**
"And I will set My face against you, so that you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one pursues you. And if after all this you will not obey Me, **I will proceed to punish you sevenfold for your sins.** I will break down your stubborn pride and make your sky like iron and your land like bronze... If you walk in hostility toward Me and refuse to obey Me, **I will multiply your plagues seven times, according to your sins...."** (Leviticus 26:17-19, 21).

The house of Israel wandered through the nations 2,520 years before settling in the current locations. During their sentence, they did return to God like the prodigal son, after suffering poverty, relentless invasions and servitude. Eventually, a light began to shine again.

- **The early kingdom of the Franks** enforced Christianity within their vast kingdom.

Frank, member of a Germanic-speaking people who invaded the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century. Dominating present-day northern France, Belgium, and western Germany, the Franks established the most powerful Christian kingdom of early medieval western Europe. The name France (Francia) is derived from their name.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Frank-people>

- **King Alfred the Great** was the Christian king to canonize Biblical laws into the legal system of Britain and Christianized the Vikings there.

“Alfred was both soldier and scholar, lawmaker and educator, author and Reformer.

He brought scholars from Europe in order to help educate his people. He was determined to give his nation a stable system of laws based upon God’s Law. He blended Mosaic law with the Sermon on the Mount and Germanic customs.

Alfred’s *Dooms* (893 A.D.) began with the Ten Commandments, the Laws of Moses, the Golden Rule of Christ, and other Biblical principles.”

<http://www.reformationsa.org/index.php/history/94-king-alfred-the-great>

- 21st century leaders are working to remove corruption, reinstate justice and restore honesty.

Today, Christian nations have come a long way to protect the ordinary people by enforcing laws that exercise justice and preserve peace.

Unfortunately, corruption, lies and deceit has never been stamped out. Similar to the time of King Jehu, rulers have come to power and introduced the Jezebel theologies.

Jezebel was a Sidonian princess, daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. “Josephus represents him as a king of the Tyrians as well as of the Sidonians.”

<https://biblehub.com/topical/e/ethbaal.htm>

Queen Jezebel killed many of the prophets in the northern house of Israel and she incited weak and wayward King Ahab to worship her gods and spread that worship to the people in his kingdom. Elijah was the prophet God sent to lead the destruction of her gods and clean this house of baal worship (I Kings 18:13-14).

21st century “baal worship” may be difficult to see, but it is seeping out into public view more and more as atrocities involving child sacrificing, strange occult practices, rampant human trafficking and pedophilia come to light. Many politicians, judges, lawyers, national leaders at every level, members of royalty, and the wealthy are linked to dark and secretive rituals.

Jezebel is the source of “Satan’s so-called deep secrets” (Revelation 2:24b). She has her “daughters” in many agencies all working for her. These deep secrets include promises of power and leadership offered to weak people willing to submit to this evil force that promotes Satan’s one-world government, his globalist agenda that is working to entrap the ordinary people and bend their knee to his regime.

Jezebel in ancient times died a violent death, thrown out from a high window and “her blood splattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot” (II Kings 9:33).

Everyone in 21st century Israel who participates in her activities will, like Jezebel, suffer intensely, if they do not repent. God will strike the people working with her dead and bring a total end to her work (Revelation 2:22-23).

As national leaders clean out the “swamp”, they are met with malicious and merciless opposition. God is witnessing the suffering, the attacks, the slander and slurring by those who are against the people holding national leadership positions who are trying to do the right thing by upholding the law, enforcing justice and restoring honesty. In some cases, their lives are in danger. These people will be rewarded rulership with Christ over the nations on earth, teaching and helping them to implement God's laws and policies in their national legal system.

They will also receive the “morning star”. Their resurrected bodies will shine very brightly, like Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:19). God has always shown favour to those who uphold the law.

In the Millennium, the nations will return to God and implement His laws and policies and the people will no longer suffer. The leaders will learn to serve. In time, every nation on earth will join the united holy kingdom of royal priests (Rev 5:10). That is the main objective throughout the Millennium. Into eternity, God will reveal His next plan, of which these people will rule with Christ and ensure God’s laws are kept and peace is preserved.

5. Sardis

These are a people who are truly in trouble. Their work is incomplete and they are about to die, that is, become totally wicked. It is any wonder that Jesus is with the seven spirits of God and the seven angels of the seven churches. These people, like the people in Ephesus, do a global work within Christianity. Their work professes to be noble and pure, which it may have been initially, but it has deteriorated to such an extent that Jesus consults the seven spirits of God.

Isaiah 11:2 identifies the seven spirits of God. “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

(1) Spirit of the LORD (the Holy Spirit)

(2) Spirit of wisdom

(3) Spirit of understanding

(4) Spirit of counsel

(5) Spirit of power

(6) Spirit of knowledge

(7) Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

The Sardis group may have had a focus to genuinely care for the needy, homeless, widows and fatherless and over time, organizations, foundations and charities formed. However, today, scandals of how donations are being used is coming to light. If these organizations are pocketing most of the donations or abusing the use of funds, they indeed would be in trouble with God, for they claim to serve the poor and needy, which God considers to be pure religion (James 1:27).

Jesus is warning them to stop and return to their original focus of being the **righteous** people who truly care for and protect the homeless, the fatherless, the vulnerable and those plunged into distress from a catastrophe: natural or manmade. Today, they are close to having their names erased from the book of life, only a small few are honest and truly serving, such an example may be the doctors without borders and those who fund and prepare relief packages.

The work of “pure religion” will explode in the early years of the Millennium. These people will be in high demand. People who can reach those in need, organize relief packages, provide solutions to needs while life remains physical, as well as, implement mechanisms for spiritual healing and growth. This work is precious and into eternity the need will not go away. Spiritual growth will always need the righteous supporters of pure religion.

6. Philadelphia

Jesus introduced himself from his view of his role as high priest; **he is holy and true**. He tells this group of people that he has the key of David. He can lock and unlock doors and nobody can hinder him. Before these people, he places an opened door: opportunities, power, authority to complete his work. They will be part of a great witness.

“But beware of men; for they will hand you over to their councils and flog you in their synagogues. On My account, **you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles**. But when they hand you over, do not worry about how to respond or what to say. **In that hour you will be given what to say**” (Matthew 10:17-19).

“For **God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-control**. So, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner. Instead, join me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. He has saved us and **called us to a holy calling**, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time eternal” (II Timothy 1:7-9).

Despite their vulnerability, they will not deny Christ’s name and they will keep his word, during a time of great distress when everyone who follows Christ is hated (Matthew 10:22). They will understand their spiritual enemy and they will be fully dressed in the armour of God and ready for battle. They will boldly stand strong against the enemy and work to save their brothers and sisters. They will keep Jesus’ command to endure patiently. They understand that God wishes to save everyone and more time is needed to awaken their

brothers and sisters. Their suffering is lengthened but they will endure because they too, want to see everyone repent.

These are a special, set apart people. Throughout history, they have grown spiritually and are blameless. They have little physical strength because they are scattered among the twelve tribes of Israel. They are part of the 144,000 of Revelation 7, 14 who are sealed and kept from “the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth” (Revelation 3:10).

They will be rewarded the greatest honour of all. They will be eternally in the temple of God and receive **THREE** names on their foreheads: God's name, the New Jerusalem, Christ's new name. To receive those three names is a reward that is glorious and wonderful. To have these names displayed the moment the face is seen, glorifies their unbreakable allegiance to those they serve; it also identifies who they are: holy and true.

7. Laodicea

Jesus speaks to this group of people with assuredly: the Amen and the faithful and true witness bringing a claim against them—a luke-warm people, who hold lofty claims of themselves. They trumpet their wealth of spiritual knowledge and claim to understand all scriptures. They need nothing. These people are many; they are bold and confident.

Unfortunately, they think they are following Christ but in fact, they are rather walking side-by-side, like Peter after Christ's resurrection.

When Jesus first called Peter and Andrew, he said, "**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately, they left their nets and **followed Him**" (Matthew 4:18-20).

Peter was viewed by the other disciples as a bold and strong leader. After Jesus' resurrection, "Simon Peter said to them [the six other disciples with him], 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, '**We will also come with you**'" (John 21:2).

Though Peter exuded confidence, when the time became dire, he caved because he was relying on his own strength. It is a well-known story. Peter denied Christ three times prior to the crucifixion.

The **third time** that Christ appeared to the disciples was **the day of the miraculous catch of fish**. On that day, early that morning, the miraculous catch of 153 fish was brought to shore from the turbulent waters. One hundred and fifty-three in Hebrew is the gematria for “sons of God”. They mirror the saints surviving the Great Tribulation and being brought to safety by the work of the seven churches of Revelation. There were only seven disciples who were fishing on that day.

John, the loved disciple, was the first to recognize Christ on the shore. Peter heard and immediately wrapped an outer garment to cover his nakedness. **Outer garments are symbolic of behaviour. He knew he was lacking**, so he quickly covered himself and he jumped in the water, leaving the arduous work of hauling the fish to shore for the other six disciples; "**they followed** in the boat" (John 21:8).

The six disciples did not leave their duties of bringing the 153 fish—the “sons of God” to safety, but followed in the boat. Jesus told Peter to bring some of the fish from the catch. So, he returned to the boat and “dragged the net ashore” (John 21:11). Peter resumed his duty after Christ told him to go back and get fish from the catch. Christ fed them bread and fish mirroring him teaching them God’s word [the bread] and some from the catch speaking with them [the fish].

Following the meal, **Christ asked Peter three times if he loved him “more than these?”** Peter was adamant that he loved Christ. That pledge of loyalty was the official reinstatement of Peter back into the ministry after he had denied Christ three times prior to his crucifixion. When Christ asked him the third time, Peter responded with indignation. He was offended and said, **“Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you”** (John 21:17).

Indeed, Christ knew all things that was why he asked Peter three times if he loved him and to feed his lambs and sheep—the young and mature Christians. Peter, the leading member of the ministry was assigned the task of preaching the gospel to the Jews (Galatians 2:7).

Christ admonished Peter. **“Follow me!”** When Peter turned around to John, he saw him **following them**. Peter was walking side-by-side with Jesus. He still couldn’t understand. Peter asked Jesus, “What about John?” Jesus admonished Peter again to concern himself with his own matters and he added, **“YOU MUST FOLLOW ME”** (John 21:22). John was already following; he hadn’t stop following.

A time in the future rests on the near horizon, when the ministry who mirror Peter from both houses of Israel: the Jews and Christians, will likely be tested again. Christ reinstated him back into the ministry after his resurrection, with the admonition that in his latter days, he will not have the freedom to do as he pleases, but he will suffer as his bold-confidence is removed. **He will learn to follow Christ** as he did at the beginning.

“But when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go” (John 21:18b).

These people are part of many churches under different names. They believe that they are worshipping God fully. They lift up their arms and sing, but they are not careful to obey God's commandments, His ordinances, His Sabbath, His Holy Days. They know that Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and even though the Apostle Paul warned Christians “not to be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings...” (Hebrews 13:9), many are confused and have wandered away and they do not know it.

Like the Apostle Peter, an awakening moment will startle the Laodicean people from their blindness and they will remember and see. And like the Apostle Peter, those who overcome, will successfully lead God’s people in a time of extreme distress.

The importance of testing, re-testing, re-researching and researching again and again will be the lesson for all Christians. Ultimately, those who are humble and leaning on Christ will carefully follow him and reap rewards beyond human imagination.

There are many, many different roles that Christ will give to those who overcome. Into the Millennium, the overcomers will be ecstatic with the reward given to them.

“In My Father's house there are many mansions. And if not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2)

Some may regret that it took the Great Tribulation to bring them to their knees and awaken them, but all their short-comings will embed a deep repentance that is eternal. The precious sacrifice of Christ will be cherished. So, despite their short comings, the office awarded to the overcomers will be glorious and with immense gratitude will be accepted. Every office once held by the fallen angels: princes, rulers, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12) will be awarded to repentant mankind.

God is rebuilding His new headquarters, once filled with spiritual giants many of which fell into rebellion. This new headquarters will be moved to the new earth in the near future. God Almighty will live with mankind, His second creation—a humble holy kingdom of royal priests.

God's headquarters, He calls Lebanon is falling. “See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. **The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low.** He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; **LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE**” (Isaiah 10:33-34).

Despite the fall in heaven, God is rebuilding and He can see that very soon a new headquarters will rise comprised of repentant mankind. **“In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?”** (Isaiah 29:17)

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, they will flourish in the COURTS OF OUR GOD. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green” (Psalm 92:12-15).

“I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and **his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon**” (Hosea 14:5-6).

God's new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest in Lebanon full of faithful and loyal leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities.

Jesus identified seven churches in Revelation. Seven different core functions critical to the completion of a holy kingdom of royal priests on earth:

1. **Gospel/news reporters** who have the right to private conversations with God and Christ to share God's plans, projects, ideals, goals and dreams with all creation.
2. **Sons of God** who will rule like their brother, Jesus over dominions in heaven and protectors in the new heaven and new earth.
3. **The exploring researchers** who marvel at God's intellect and complexity. They will discover the magnitude of God's never-ending greatness and share these wonders with all creation in the new heaven and earth.

4. **National and civic leaders, judges and lawyers all expert in God's law** will ensure that it is enforced. God's law will be a joy that preserves peace and extends love for one another. They will rule over the nations on earth with Christ and work to establish national and international policies that serve the people God's way.
5. **The carers and supporters of pure religion** will find a rich calling in the provisions they prepare for spiritual growth. They will reach everyone in both realms: heaven and earth to provide supports for pure religion.
6. God will assemble His **new headquarters**. Members will include: the bride, the saints, the remnant of Israel, the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel, and the people of the Philadelphia group. This new headquarters will be established on the new earth. God Almighty will live with mankind.
7. **Countless rulership positions** have opened up since one-third of creation in heaven (the first creation) rebelled. All of mankind will fill these positions. These positions are not limited to the realm of earth. The sky will be rolled back, sometime soon, and mankind will see the vast dominions and the magnitude of life in heaven, which existed and developed long before the creation on earth.

The Millennium will prepare mankind for their eternal responsibilities. Into eternity, bigger things will happen, marvels will be revealed and God's incredible greatness will be unleashed. Mankind in eternity will be amazed, but that won't change the seven important roles that complete God's holy kingdom of royal priests.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich